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# PROCEEDINGS

## OF THE

### FOURTEENTH CONVENTION OF THE

### SOCIETY OF THE SIGMA XI

CLEVELAND, JANUARY 2, 1913

The fourteenth convention of the Society of the Sigma Xi was called to order in the Reading Room, Main Building, Case School of Applied Science, by Professor H. T. Eddy of the University of Minnesota, at 3:30 P. M., January 2, 1913. The President appointed B. Shimek, T. M. Focke, R. R. Tatnall, as the Committee on Credentials, who reported twenty-two chapters represented by proper delegates presenting official credentials, as follows:

Case	F. M. Comstock, D. C. Miller, T. M. Focke
Chicago	S. W. Williston
Colorado	Henry B. Dates
Columbia	J. McK. Cattell, George B. Pegram
Illinois	G. A. Miller, H. B. Ward, S. A. Forbes
Indiana	F. N. Andrews, Cora B. Hennel
Iowa State	F. C. Brown, B. Shimek
Kansas	W. J. Baumgartner, J. N. Van der Vries, S. J. Hunter
Michigan	A. G. Ruthven
Minnesota	H. T. Eddy
Missouri	W. C. Curtis
Nebraska	L. B. Tuckerman, Jr., F. D. Barker
Northwestern	W. A. Locy, R. R. Tatnall
Ohio State	H. Osborn
Pennsylvania	H. H. Donaldson, C. E. McClung
Rensselaer	F. C. Osborn
Syracuse	W. H. Metzler
Union	W. A. Garrison
Washington Univ.	J. F. Abbott
Wisconsin	C. E. Allen
Worcester	A. W. Ewell
Yale	J. P. Schaeffer, Davenport Hooker, L. B. Mendell

Others present, but without credentials as delegates, were as follows:

Chicago	M. A. Brannon
Ohio State	Wm. R. Lazenby
Indiana	S. E. Meek
Case	F. H. Neff

The President announced that the Constitution required that three-quarters of the chapters shall constitute a quorum, 21 at the present time, and that, as there were 22 chapters represented, the meeting was legally constituted.

The President announced that unless corrections were offered, the proceedings of the last convention, were approved as printed.

President Eddy's annual report on the business of the Society, omitting some details, which, while important to guide the action of the members of the Convention present, he has not desired to print, was substantially as follows:

The large mass of Society correspondence which has occupied me during the year has mostly pertained to questions of extension and the granting or refusal of new charters at six institutions which have either petitioned for charters or desire to do so, together with one or two others which have been considering this step, which were received last year. Two of these petitions have been refused during the year, and I have been obliged to inform most of the others that, under present constitutional requirements and with the existing attitude of the Society as shown by recent refusals of charters, their petitions would not find favorable consideration. All but one of the tentative applications have apparently been withheld for the present. But a petition from one of these institutions with an exceedingly strong medical department which is doing important research work, has been presented to the Society and is pending before the Council.

I am informed that proposals will be made at this Convention looking to the modification of our constitutional requirements in such a way as to safeguard our standards and yet enable us to grant charters to groups of productive researchers. I trust that some way may be found to accomplish this end.

Besides this, there are before us for action certain proposed amendments to the Constitution recommended by the Minnesota Chapter, embodying the suggestions contained in my last annual report, intended to facilitate the business of the Society, which I hope may lead to desirable changes of procedure.

The management of the Panama-Pacific Exposition has extended an official invitation to this Society as well as to many other organizations, to hold a summer meeting in 1915 at San Francisco. This invitation is hereby presented to the Society for such action as it may wish to take.

The Council has inadvertently omitted to nominate officers for the coming year as directed by a new provision of the Consti-

tution and it asks the Society to proceed to elect new officers in any manner it may see fit.

In this connection your presiding officer begs to advise the Society that his relationship to university work has been so changed by his recent retirement from active service that in his opinion it would be better for the Society to fill the office of president of the Society by some one still in active service.

The Secretary read the report of the Treasurer. It was voted that the report be accepted and with the bank book and vouchers, be referred to the Auditing Committee. Upon motion by Henry B. Ward, it was voted that J. McKeen Cattell be appointed Auditor and that the report of the Auditor be printed in the proceedings. (This report is given in full on page 15.)

Upon motion by B. Shimek, it was voted that the reports from the various chapters given at the banquet on the preceding evening, be considered as fulfilling the next order of business, viz., Reading by delegates of the chapter reports. The report of the proceedings at the banquet is as follows:

After the dinner, President Eddy, acting as toastmaster, called upon S. W. Williston, one of the founders of the Society. He gave a short history of the Society. It was founded simply as an honorary society. There are now 28 chapters and its purpose has developed until its main object now seems to be the encouragement of research. The looseness of conditions of membership was criticised. Some institutions hesitate to ask for charters because of the indefiniteness of the organization. Actual productive work in science was advocated as a requirement for membership. It seems desirable that the Society should publish a bulletin giving news of the various chapters, especially with regard to the research work done by the several chapters.

Cornell: H. E. Summers. The speaker, now of Iowa State College, was one of the first candidates not an engineer, to be admitted to the Cornell Chapter.

Union: W. A. Garrison.

Kansas: S. J. Hunter. During the past year the Kansas Chapter made efforts to secure from the administration better facilities for carrying on research work. Undergraduates are elected to membership only from the engineering departments.

Minnesota: Henry F. Nachtrieb.

Nebraska: L. B. Tuckerman, Jr.

Ohio State: A. P. Weiss. Remarks were made favoring an investigation to ascertain what per cent. of the members of Sigma Xi actually do research work after election.

Pennsylvania: M. G. Lloyd.

Brown: H. T. Stetson.

Iowa State: G. W. Stewart.

California: Frank W. Bancroft. The opinion was expressed that undergraduates receive no benefits from the Society of Sigma Xi.

Columbia: J. McKeen Cattell.

Chicago: S. W. Williston. Only one undergraduate has been admitted to membership in the Chicago Chapter, and this one only after he had published an important piece of research. Associate membership was advocated for undergraduates.

Michigan: H. W. Randall.

Illinois: G. A. Miller.

Case: Frank M. Comstock.

Indiana: Miss Mary T. Harman.

Missouri: Max Meyer.

Northwestern: Wm. A. Locy.

Syracuse: F. A. Saunders.

Wisconsin: B. M. Allen.

Purdue: R. M. Kenyon.

Washington University: G. F. Abbott.

Upon motion by G. A. Miller, it was voted that a nominating committee be appointed consisting of the chapter representatives on the Council, exclusive of the officers of the Society. This committee consisted of W. A. Locy, W. H. Metzler, and T. M. Focke.

Corresponding Secretary Henry B. Ward gave the annual report. It was stated that the proof for the Record and History of the Society of Sigma Xi had been corrected, that the page proof was ready, and that the volume would soon be issued. He referred to the difficulty of obtaining correct reports from the different chapters and asked that he be not held responsible for errors. He mentioned one instance in which he found forty names missing from the list furnished by the chapter. The edition is to be 2,000 copies. About half of these have been paid for in advance. A full report of the financial account in connection with the issuing of the volume will be made after the printing. The number of subscriptions actually received is somewhat more than 1,700. The actual membership of the Society to the close of the year 1911, is 7,498. There were elected in 1912 about 700 members who,

according to the instructions of the preceding convention, are not included in the printed list.

It was suggested by J. McKeen Cattell that the linotype for the Record and History be held in storage for a year to allow a second impression if the demand is sufficient.

Upon motion by J. McKeen Cattell it was voted that the secretary be authorized to offer members who had not subscribed, another opportunity to purchase the volume and that he provide so far as possible to meet this demand.

Upon motion by S. W. Williston it was voted:

That the President be instructed to appoint a committee of three, one of whom shall be an engineer, whose duty it shall be to formulate an amendment to the Constitution defining the qualifications for membership and associate membership in the Society of the Sigma Xi;

That said committee shall submit its report, or reports, to the Council in such a way as it may prefer;

That the report, as modified or amended by the Council, shall be submitted to each chapter for approval before submission to the next convention of the Society for final action.

The President appointed S. W. Williston, Chicago, chairman; E. L. Nichols, Cornell; W. F. M. Goss, Illinois; as the committee to consider the qualifications for membership.

Remarks were made by S. W. Williston explaining the desirability of issuing a Quarterly Bulletin of perhaps 32 pages, the printing of which for the year might cost \$300 and other expenses incidental to its distribution might be \$100. He thought such a bulletin might create further interest in the Society and increase its usefulness. The subscriptions might possibly include 1,500 active members and 500 alumni members.

Upon motion by Henry B. Dates it was voted:

That the Society accept Dr. Williston's offer to act as Managing Editor of a Sigma Xi bulletin to be published quarterly:

That the Society guarantee the expenses of the publication for one year;

That the bulletin be sent active members only, and that a nominal subscription price of 50c be made for all others;

That the two secretaries, with the Managing Editor, constitute a publication committee.

Upon motion by T. M. Focke it was voted that the President of the Society be added to the committee on the publication of the bulletin.

The Nominating Committee reported the following nominees for the several offices:

President, J. McKeen Cattell, Columbia.

Vice-President, John H. Long, Northwestern.

Recording Secretary, Dayton C. Miller, Case.

Treasurer, J. F. Kemp, Columbia.

Corresponding Secretary, Henry B. Ward, having been elected for a four-year term, continues in office.

Upon motion by G. A. Miller it was voted that the secretary cast the ballot of the Society for the nominees. Secretary Ward cast the ballot and the President announced the nominees as the duly elected officers of the Society for two years.

The President brought to the attention of the Society the amendments to the Constitution proposed by the Minnesota Chapter. These amendments are as follows:

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION OF SIGMA XI  
PROPOSED BY THE MINNESOTA CHAPTER**

**ARTICLE II.**

SECTION 3. The chairman shall submit copies of the petition and all available information to the members of the council for consideration and consultation with the members of their chapters. It shall be the duty of each councilor to advise the chairman by letter as soon as practicable as to his attitude and that of his chapter regarding the petition. The chairman shall submit the results of this consultation to each councilor in detail for his information and further consideration. After full opportunity for further inquiry, the chairman shall submit the question of granting the petition to letter ballot of the councilors whose vote shall be final. Each chapter may make rules such as it may determine upon regarding its instructions to its councilor in the matter of his voting upon petitions for charters.

When the chairman has received the written consent of three-fourths of the members of council to the granting of the petition, he shall notify the president that the petition has been granted.

SECTION 4. Councilors not reporting their votes within a period of six (6) months from the time of any question is submitted to them, shall be again requested to vote, and on failure to do so within ten days, shall be regarded as having voted in the affirmative.

SECTION 5. A charter for the establishment of a new chapter shall be issued as soon as the president has received notification of the consent of the requisite number of councilors.

## ARTICLE VIII.

SECTION 1. A regular convention of the Society consisting of one delegate from each chapter shall be held once each two years during the summer vacation at a time and place fixed upon by the council.

Appendix V is hereby repealed.

SECTION 2 (a). Each chapter in good standing shall be entitled to be represented at the convention by a single delegate.

(b) The councilor of any chapter shall ex-officio represent the Chapter at convention as delegate, unless the chapter shall otherwise designate.

(c) (Unchanged).

(d) The necessary traveling expenses in attending the convention of one delegate for each chapter shall be paid out of the funds of the Society by the general treasurer.

(e) (Unchanged).

SECTION 3. (a) The appointment of any delegate in lieu of a councilor shall be certified to by the secretary of the chapter appointing him, in a letter to the committee on credentials of the convention.

SECTION 4. (k) (To be omitted).

After extended discussion of these amendments it seemed undesirable to change the time of meeting, which was established by the action of the Convention of 1899. Upon motion by J. McKeen Cattell it was voted that the proposed amendments and suggestions of the President be referred to a committee of five who should formulate changes in the Constitution and report at the next convention.

The President appointed as members of the Committee on Amendments to the Constitution:

H. S. Williams, Cornell, chairman  
F. R. Watson, Illinois, secretary  
J. McK. Cattell, Columbia  
Julius Stieglitz, Chicago  
H. T. Eddy, Minnesota.\*

(Signed)

DAYTON C. MILLER

Recording Secretary

\*Since the amendments presented by the Minnesota Chapter were the primary reason for the appointment of this committee and since many members of the convention felt the importance of utilizing the experience of President Eddy in the work of revising the Constitution, he reluctantly consented to become a member of the committee.